EXPERIENCES OF "WONDER" AND PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY

BE PART OF AN IMPORTANT RESEARCH STUDY

My name is Joseph M. Felser, Ph.D. I am a professor of Philosophy at Kingsborough Community College of the City University of New York (Brooklyn, NY), as well as the author of numerous articles and two books, *The Way Back to Paradise: Restoring the Balance between Magic and Reason* (2005), and *The Myth of the Great Ending: Why We've Been Longing for the End of Days Since the Beginning of Time* (2011). I am a graduate of several TMI programs. In addition, I delivered the Keynote address at the Institute's Professional Division seminar in March of 2006.

The purpose of this research study is to examine the relationship between what I call experiences of "wonder"--including dreams, reveries, waking visions, trances, mystical unions, out-of-body episodes, phase-shifts, encounters with guides or other entities, etc.--and philosophical-type questions, or acts of wondering about the nature of reality, the self, and our knowledge thereof. I am interested in how these types of experiences are connected to the universal search for meaning and truth, and, in particular, how this connection is experienced and understood by TMI program participants.

- Participation is entirely voluntary and may be terminated at any time for any reason.
- All graduates (18 years of age or older) of Monroe Institute residential programs are eligible to participate in the study.
- All participants will initially be asked to complete and submit a brief on-line questionnaire available on my web site.
- Survey respondents can choose to be eligible to receive a follow-up survey via email.
- A selected portion of this second (follow-up) group will be interviewed (by email, telephone, or in person, where feasible).
- The time it takes to complete the surveys and interviews will vary according to the length of the participant's responses, but should not exceed an hour for each of the three phases.
- Those who wish to preserve their anonymity may elect to do so when submitting the initial on-line survey forms.
- For further information, or if you have any questions, you can email me directly at: JFelser@Kingsborough.edu or via my website: http://www.everythingtriestoberound.com.
- Instructions on my website will guide participants through the survey process. Go to this direct link: http://www.everythingtriestoberound.com/study/consentform.php.

- If you have any questions or concerns that have not been addressed by the researcher, feel free to contact Dr. Eben Alexander III, The Monroe Institute's Director of Research, at eben.alexander@monroeinstitute.org or by telephone at 1- 866-881-3440.

Thank you for taking the time to consider being part of this study.